

Without prejudice, please amend claims 1 and 10 as follows:

1. (Amended) A piezoelectric ceramic body comprising:

a plurality of insulating layers situated one over the other, the insulating layers being composed of a piezoactive ceramic material; and

internal electrodes separating at least portions of the insulating layers from each other, at least a part of at least one of the internal electrodes containing a silver-containing material, the material of the at least one internal electrode having a component which at least one of reduces and inhibits a diffusion of silver from the at least one internal electrode into an insulating layer;

wherein the internal electrodes include a PZT ceramic modified by at least one of: rare-earth metals, subgroup elements, alkali metals and alkaline-earth metals.

10. (Amended) A piezoelectric ceramic body comprising:

a plurality of insulating layers situated one over the other, the insulating layers being composed of a piezoactive ceramic material; and

internal electrodes separating at least portions of the insulating layers from each other, at least a part of at least one of the internal electrodes containing a silver-containing material, the material of the at least one internal electrode having a component which at least one of reduces and inhibits a diffusion of silver from the at least one internal electrode into an insulating layer;

wherein the internal electrodes are electrically conductive and are composed of an AgPd alloy;

and wherein the internal electrodes are further composed of a PZT ceramic modified by at least one of: rare-earth metals, subgroup elements, alkali metals and alkaline-earth metals.